

# California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program N E W S L E T T E R

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE      November/December 2000

## YEAR 2000 PROGRESS REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The California EMF Program has completed a short report to update the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the program's progress between November 1999 and November 2000. The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) leadership is reviewing this report, which will be sent to the CPUC before the end of the year, once it receives CDHS approval. This report contains information on the current status of the program's many research projects and educational activities. When the report is sent to the CPUC, it will also be distributed to the program's stakeholders.

## OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE SURVEY PROJECT FINAL REPORT: ORDERING INFORMATION

The purpose of the Occupational Exposure Survey Project was to devise an internet-based questionnaire that will estimate a person's occupational EMF exposure based on the job tasks that he or she performs. Michael Yost of the University of Washington prepared the questionnaire and validated it by comparing the exposure calculated on the basis of the information gleaned through the questionnaire with measurements taken of the actual exposure of a group of workers. The project report has been peer reviewed and revised based on the reviewers' comments. The final report is now available.

### MILESTONES

- Occupational Exposure Survey project completed
- Power Grid and Land Use Policy Project peer review completed
- School Policy Project 2<sup>nd</sup> draft completed and sent to peer reviewers
- Risk Evaluation 2<sup>nd</sup> draft sent to the Science Advisory Panel for review
- Annual report to the CPUC completed and sent the CDHS director for review

Members of the public can order printed copies of the project report from City Copy Center in Oakland, California, for the cost of copying and postage; our core stakeholders will each receive a free copy from the program in the near future. To order a copy of the project report, please contact City Copy Center at (510) 763-0193 or 580 14<sup>th</sup> St., Oakland, and ask for the California EMF Program's Occupational Exposure Survey Report. Stakeholders and members of the public are welcome to submit comments on this final report before Friday, March 2, 2001. Since the report is now finalized and will undergo no further revisions, the program will not respond to the comments received, but all comments received by the due date will be attached to the final report when it is submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission.

### RESEARCH UNIT PROGRESS

***Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis:*** Detlof von Winterfeldt is revising the project according to the peer reviewers' comments.

***School Policy Analysis:*** Keith Florig and Brock Bernstein have submitted the draft final report of the School Policy Project for peer review. Peer reviewers, contractors, and EMF staff participated in a teleconference to answer reviewers' questions about the report. Peer reviewers' comments are due in mid-January. Once all comments are received, the authors will revise and finalize the report.

***Epidemiology Workshop:*** The special issue of the journal *Bioelectromagnetics* is now in press. This special issue of the conference proceedings will contain the papers presented at the January 1999 workshop and edited transcripts of the workshop discussions, and it will constitute the final report of this project. The program

will distribute information on how to order this publication once it becomes available.

***Prospective Miscarriage Study:*** A journal article describing the results of this study of EMF and spontaneous abortion has been submitted for publication.

***Occupational Exposure Study:*** Michael Yost has revised his report based on the peer reviewers' comments. This report is now available for distribution (see above).

***Risk Evaluation:*** The second draft of the Risk Evaluation was sent to the Science Advisory Panel for their review on November 13, 2000. The Research Unit staff also discussed this draft with a number of epidemiologists and statisticians, and the draft will be revised based on the comments of the SAP and these epidemiologists and statisticians.

***Policy Integration:*** Now that the School Policy Project draft is undergoing peer review and the Power Grid Policy Project is nearly complete, the Policy Integration is underway.

### EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT PROGRESS

#### *Research Project Non-Technical Summaries*

***Summary of the Risk Evaluation Guidelines:*** The Education Unit has completed a draft of the non-technical summary of the Risk Evaluation Guidelines, which is now undergoing internal review. This document will provide a brief summary of the main concepts in the guidelines for those who wish to understand them without reading the entire document.

***Summary of the School Exposure Assessment:*** A draft of the School Exposure Assessment Summary has been completed and is undergoing internal review. This document is a non-technical summary intended for those interested in learning briefly about the School Exposure Assessment project completed in January 2000.

Department of Health Services leadership. This report will be distributed to the stakeholders in a regular program mailing after it is approved by CDHS and submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission.

***Wiring Video Introductory Sheet:*** This short description of the wiring video with ordering instructions has been formatted and sent to the Department of Health Services for approval. Once this document is approved, it will be posted on the California EMF Program's Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/>.

#### *Other Education and Technical Assistance Unit Activities*

***Fact Sheets:*** The Education Unit staff continue to revise drafts of the updated School Interpretation of Measurements fact sheet and the Frequently Asked Questions about EMF in Residences fact sheet.

***Response to Public Questions:*** The California EMF Program continues to receive questions on EMF in residential and occupational settings. Between the middle of October and the middle of December, we have responded to more than 50 telephone questions from across the country and at least 20 e-mails, including one from Istanbul.

***EMF Program Notebook:*** The Health Education Assistant has been updating and maintaining the EMF Program Notebook. This notebook contains records of the program's meetings and important documents, and will be held by the Department of Health Services after the program's completion.

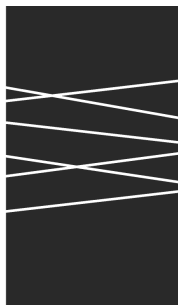
***Preparation of the Progress Report to the California Public Utilities Commission:*** The Health Educator took the lead in preparing this year's report on the program's progress, which is now being reviewed by the

## EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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watch for our Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/>